

All programs are free (unless otherwise noted) and open to the public after paying the park entrance fee. Our interpretive programs are designed to entertain and enrich folks of all ages. Children under 12, please bring an adult.

Facilities:

Main Park Office

1600 N 25 E
Chesterton, IN 46304
219-926-1952
8:30am-4pm Mon-Fri

State Park Nature Center

219-926-1390
9:30am-4:30pm Wed-Sun
Closed Monday & Tuesday

Swimming Beach Hours

Closed for Season



Program support comes from the Friends of Indiana Dunes.

Learn more at www.friendsofindiandunes.org.



Camping and shelter reservations can be made at www.camp.in.gov.



Celebrating 100 years of making memories naturally!

Indiana Dunes State Park

December 2016 / www.interpretiveservices.in.gov

Saturday, December 3

10am Winter Hike into Beaver Bayou! Join us at the Nature Center for a short stroll to this past summer's beaver activity and the flooded area they have created. With leaves down, they should be easier to see. Grab the family and join us on this winter's afternoon! GT

2pm Oh Deer! Visit the Nature Center Auditorium this afternoon as we look into the life of one of the largest mammals in the dunes. We'll look at issues parks face with too many deer, as well as how we manage our herds. GT

Sunday, December 4

10am Breakfast with the Birds. Join Greg for a relaxing morning with the birds. We'll have some coffee, cocoa, and donuts and the warm bird room to identify the many wintering birds visiting now after a short jaunt outside to fill our feeders. It all takes place at the Nature Center. GT

2pm Winter Snakes Alive! Learn about the resident snakes during this fascinating program in the Nature Center auditorium! We'll also explore how they're surviving the winter months. Great program, even if you're uncomfortable around these interesting reptiles. GT

Saturday December 10

10am Early Winter Wetlands. Take an early winter stroll to the wetlands this morning. We'll meet at the Nature Center and take an easy walk towards the Wilson Shelter and back. Bundle up and join us! GT

2pm Scales and Tales! Check out the Nature Center snakes, turtles, and frogs, and learn the different diets these native herps have. Meet in the Nature Center Auditorium. GT



Dunes Christmas Bird Count

The annual all day big event for serious birders takes place Saturday, December 17th. The day begins before 7am for teams of birders scouring the dunes for every single species of bird that can be found. We need feeder counters if you live in the dunes area to log birds seen that day. It's a 40+ year event in the duneland area! Inquire by calling the Nature Center at 219-926-1390 before December 15..



Join us for 9th Annual Xmas Eve Morning Stroll!

Join us for our traditional Christmas Eve stroll through the dune forests. We'll explore the winter life and beauty of the dunes on this 1 hour walk, culminating with a warm fire and hot cocoa and other holiday snacks at the Nature Center. Start a new family tradition with us and meet at the Nature Center.



Sunday December 11

10am Feed the Birds Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. We'll then come inside to view the resident chickadees, nuthatches, and more. Great program for the kids. BB

10am-2pm Bird Drawing and Painting Workshop. Local artist, Kristina Knowski, will lead this 4-hour workshop that will feature hands-on help working from the park's own mounted specimens to draw, learn, and paint some of Indiana's diverse bird life and allow visitor's to create their own original bird painting. Visitors will discover their creative side with the help of professional artists, work with high-quality materials, and learn fun facts about native and migrating bird species of the Indiana Dunes. Finished projects can be taken home as a memorable souvenir to treasure from their trip. Registration for this workshop is currently full.

2pm 100 Years of Indiana State Parks. Visit the Nature Center for this 45-minute PBS film exploring our 100 years of rich history. Special showing today.

Saturday December 17

Indiana Dunes Christmas Bird Count. Our annual all day big event for serious birders. Day begins before 7am. Feeder counters needed if you live in the duneland area. Inquire by calling the Nature Center at 219-926-1390.

10am Jaunt to Ecology Cove. Come hiking with us this morning and enjoy the panoramic views from atop the high dunes and down into some amazing interdunal coves. Meet at the Nature Center for hour or so hike. GT

2pm End of the Year Waterfowl Tour. Waterfowl are now wintering along the Lake Michigan shoreline. Meet the Naturalist for a car pool tour to find some great congregations of many duck species. We'll likely drive 10 minutes to the Port of Indiana for some great looks at scaup, mergansers, buffleheads, and more. Bring your driver's license for access to this unique location. BB



Sunday December 18

10am Feed The Birds. Join us outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. We'll then come inside to watch who is coming to dine this morning. GT

2pm Scales and Tales! Check out the Nature Center snakes, turtles, and frogs, and learn the different diets these native herps have. Meet in the Nature Center Auditorium. GT

Saturday December 24

Nature Center Closes at 2pm today.

10am 9th Annual Christmas Eve Shopping Stroll. Join us for our traditional Christmas Eve stroll through the dune forests. We'll explore the winter life and beauty of the dunes on this 1 hour walk, culminating with a warm fire and hot cocoa and other holiday snacks in the Nature Center! Start a new family tradition with us and meet at the Nature Center.

Sunday December 25

Merry Christmas!
Nature Center Closed Today



Saturday December 31

10am Winter Hike into Beaver Bayou! Join us at the Nature Center for a short stroll to this past summer's beaver activity and the flooded area they have created. With leaves down, they should be easier to see. Grab the family and join us on this winter's afternoon! GT

2pm Animal Adaptations. Ever wonder what animals do in the winter to survive? Come to the Nature Center Auditorium to find out! We will discuss the different survival options that animals have in the winter. Great fun for the kids. GT

Sunday January 1

Happy New Year!
Nature Center Open 9:30am-12pm today

10am First Day Hike: 3DC! As part of a 50 state initiative, America's State Parks First Day Hikes offer individuals and families an opportunity to begin the New Year rejuvenating and connecting with the outdoors by taking a healthy hike on January 1. Meet park staff for a special 3 Dune Challenge hike this morning. We'll explore recent park projects and possible ice shelf formation on this hour jaunt, ending with some snacks and a warm fire. Meet at the Nature Center and bring the family! .

